

Seven (7) Tips for Successful Schools

1. Treat attendance as a priority.
2. Have a clear policy on absence.
3. Use effective systems for monitoring attendance and have a support system in place for vulnerable students.
4. Use data and other information to improve school and student performance
5. Promote the importance of good attendance to students and their parents/guardians.
6. Intervene early when student absences gives cause for concern.
7. Reward and celebrate good and improved attendance.



“Positive Behavior is Essential to Academic Achievement”

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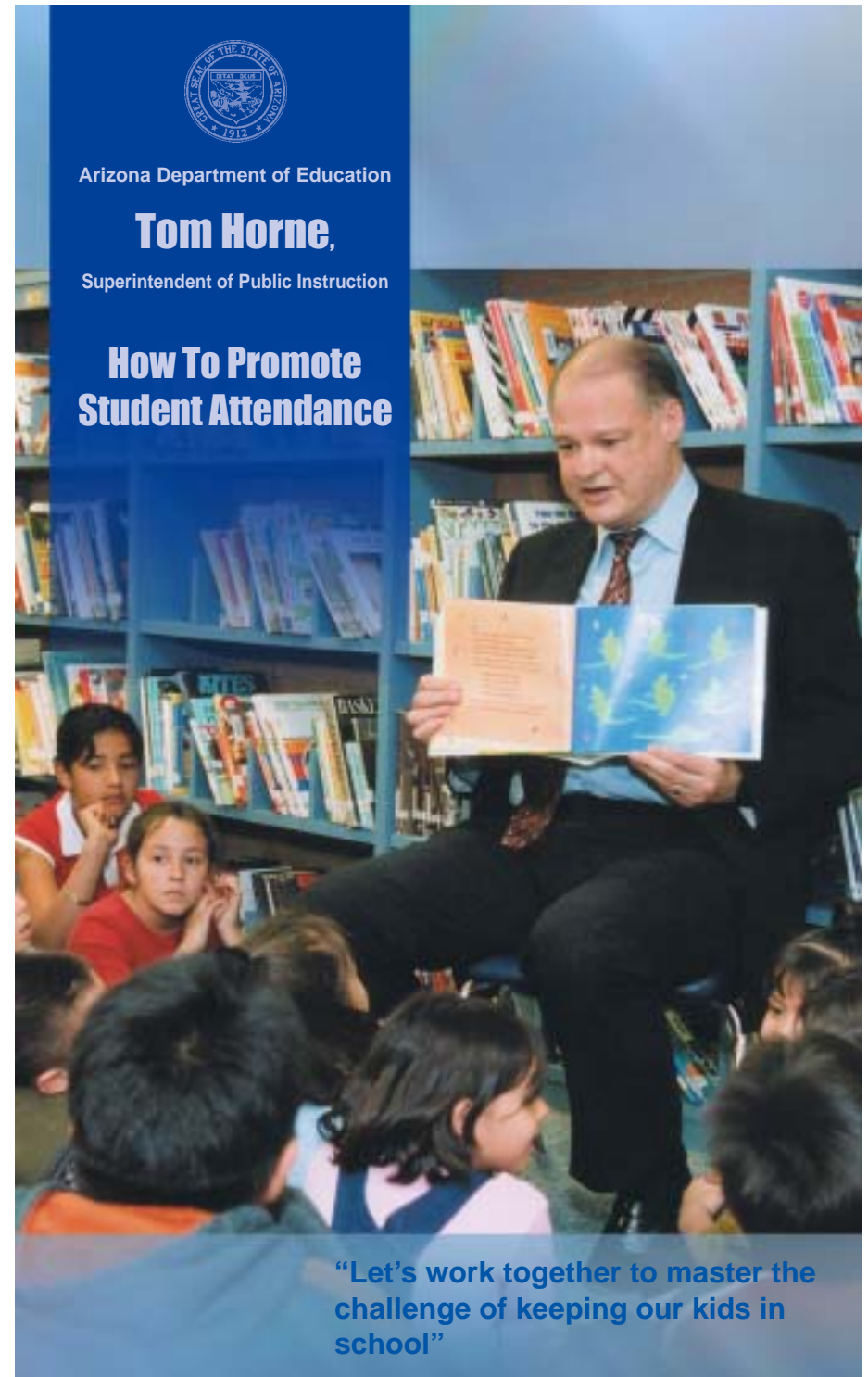
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Why is attendance important?

Student attendance is vital to student success. More than a decade of research has shown that students who attend school on a regular basis do better academically, socially and emotionally than their peers who skip school.

How does the law support school attendance?

- Every child between the ages of six and sixteen years old shall attend a school (ARS 15-802.A)
- A parent or guardian who fail to enroll or ensure that a child attend school pursuant to this section is guilty of a class 3 misdemeanor (ARS 15-802.E)
- School attendance, exemptions, and definitions (ARS 15-803.A-C)
- Definition of attendance (ARS 15-901)



How can parents support regular attendance?

Statistical information:

Thirty (30) years of research has consistently linked family involvement to higher student achievement, better attitudes toward school, lower dropout rates, increased attendance, and many other positive outcomes for students, families and schools.

Parent Intervention:

- Talk with your kids. Try to understand what they like or dislike about school.
- Meet with teachers, attendance clerk or Principal to check on your child's daily attendance.
- Join the school Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and become an "active" member and participate in site-based decision-making.
- Review school Student Handbook, Policies and Procedures.
- Visit the school campus at least 4-5 times per year.

How can schools encourage regular attendance?

Schools may want to take a look at how the school structures, culture, academics and other factors that contribute to attendance problems.

- Attendance policies must be publicized and understood by all staff and students.
- There must be a clear understanding of the difference between excused and unexcused absences.
- Policies should be aligned with the district's policies and goals.
- Reconsider the use of zero tolerance policies such as suspensions for truancy and instead consider less severe consequences such as community service or in-school detentions.
- Effective reporting, recording, and monitoring.
- Policies may include full family involvement, notification and frequent home-school contact.
- Develop two-way contracts among students, administrators, teachers, and families (that delineate standards of performance for the student, services the school will provide or changes the school will make).

Epstein's Model Partnership Involvement

Dr. Joyce Epstein's research has helped identify and clarify the many different types of partnerships that contribute to student success

PARENTING: Assist families with setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level.

COMMUNICATING: Communicate with families about school programs and student progress

VOLUNTEERING: Improve recruitment, training, work, and schedules to involve families as volunteers

EARNING AT HOME: Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum linked activities

DECISION MAKING: Include families as participants in school decisions, and advocacy through PTA/PTO, and other parent organizations.

COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY: Coordinate resources and services *for* families, students, and the school with businesses, agencies, and provide services *to* the community.

For details: <http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/sixtypes.htm>

